

REMARKS

Claim 5 is currently amended in order to be consistent with the claims of the corresponding international application no. PCT/DK200300763. Support for this amendment is found throughout the specification, particularly at page 38, lines 15-16 and Example 3, page 70, line 12-page 73, line 14 (especially page 73, lines 10-14). Claim 7 has been amended to correct a typographical error.

It is respectfully submitted that claim 5 as amended and dependent claims 6-8 were found both novel and inventive in the International Preliminary Report on Patentability, submitted herewith.

The Examiner requires restriction to one of the following invention groups:

Group I: Claims 1-4 and 9-11 drawn to an isolated nucleic acid molecule and a method of producing a lectin polypeptide;

Group II: Claims 5-8 drawn to an isolated lectin polypeptide;

Group III: Claim 12, drawn to a method of identifying a substance that binds to a polypeptide GalNAc-transferase lectin domain;

Group IV: Claim 13 drawn to a method of screening for inhibitors of functions mediated by polypeptide GalNAc-transferase lectin domains comprising using a lectin polypeptide in a binding assay;

Groups V: Claim 14 drawn to a method of screening for inhibitors of functions mediated by polypeptide GalNAc-transferase lectin domains comprising using a polypeptide GalNAc-transferase or fragment thereof for retaining functional lectin binding assay where it interacts with GalNAc or Gal β 1-3GalNAc O-glycopeptide ligand or molecular mimic thereof;

Group VI: Claims 15 and 16 drawn to a compound that binds to the lectin domain of a member of the mammalian family of polypeptide GalNAc-transferases;

Groups VII: Claims 17-21 drawn to an inhibitor of polypeptide GalNAc-transferase lectin-mediated functions;

Group VIII: Claim 22 and 35 drawn to a method of inhibiting mucin secretion in a subject comprising administering an effective amount of a compound that binds one or more lectin domains of members of mammalian family of polypeptide GalNAc-transferases;

Group IX: Claims 23-25, 36 and 37 drawn to a method of inhibiting hypersecretion and accumulation of mucin in the lungs of a mammal suffering from a chronic obstructive respiratory pulmonary disease;

Group X: Claims 26-28 drawn to a method of inhibiting secretion in a patient comprising administering GalNAc β 1-benzyl;

Group XI: Claims 29-32 drawn to a method of modulating the function of one or more lectin domains of a polypeptide GalNAc-transferase comprising an effective amount of GalNAc β 1-R;

Group XII: Claim 33 drawn to a method of screening one or more test substances for the ability to inhibit or modulate intracellular transport and/or cell surface of mucins;

Groups XIII: Claim 34 and 38 drawn to a method of screening one or more test substances for the ability to inhibit or modulate secretions of mucins; and

Group XIV: Claims 39 and 40 drawn to a method of inhibiting mucin secretion in a cell comprising delivering to a cell an effective amount of a compound that binds to one or more lectin domains of members of a mammalian family of polypeptide GalNAc-transferases.

The Examiner further contends that the following groups of invention are related as product and process of use: Group II and Groups III-V; Group VI and Group VIII; and Group VII and Groups IX-XI.

Applicants hereby elect the claims of Group II, drawn to an isolated lectin polypeptide (claims 5-8). Applicants also understand that where the elected composition claims of Group II are found allowable, the withdrawn method claims of Groups III, IV and V will be eligible for rejoinder as per M.P.E.P. 821.04(b).

It is believed that a fee of \$225.00 covering the extension for response within second month is required for this response. However, should the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determine that any additional fee is required or that any refund is owed for this application, the Commissioner is hereby authorized and requested to charge any deficiency and/or credit any refund owed to our Deposit Account No. 04-0100.

Applicants believe the pending claims are in condition for allowance. An immediate Notice of Allowance is earnestly sought.

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Respectfully submitted,

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